Organizations (NGOs) have also been involved in the implementation of certain projects. The solar systems and power plants for the programme are supplied by manufacturers, both in public and private sectors.

Statement

State-wise details of Villages and Hamlets electrified through solar systems under the Remote Village Electrification Programme (as on 28.02.2005)

Sl. No.	State	No. of Remote Villages/ hamlets electrified through solar energy
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	21 Villages
2.	Assam	36 Villages
3.	Chhattisgarh	325 Villages
4.	Gujarat	2 Villages
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	90 Villages
6.	Jharkhand	9 Villages
7.	Kerala	558 Colonies
8.	Manipur	89 Villages
9.	Orissa	18 Villages
10.	Tripura	16 Villages
11.	Uttaranchal	219 Villages and 14 hamlets
12.	West Bengal	897 Villages
	TOTAL	1,722 remote villages and 572 colonies/hamlets

Grants for development of solar energy in Tamil Nadu

2413. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total central grants released for the development of solar energy in Tamil Nadu during each of the last two years;

(b) the amount utilised by the State Government during the above period; and

(c) the details of the grant to be allotted to Tamil Nadu for the development of solar energy during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Total Central grants of Rs. 93.75 lakhs and Rs. 688.99 lakhs were released under various programmes of the Ministry for promotion of solar energy in the State of Tamil Nadu during the years, 2002-03 and 2003-04, respectively.

(b) The utilisation certificates in respect of these grants are yet to be received.

(c) The Government arranged for the supply of 4000 solar lanterns costing Rs. 132 lakhs for distribution in Tsunami affected areas of Tamil Nadu. In addition, a grant of Rs. 4.15 lakhs has been released for promotion of solar thermal energy systems in Tamil Nadu during the current financial year.

Closure of regional offices

†2414. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has decided to close all its regional offices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is likelihood of any kind of adverse effect on the States where these regional offices would be closed;

(d) whether it is a fact that some States have expressed their displeasure over the decision of closure of these offices; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (e) The regional offices of this Ministry were set up in some selected states as a part of a deployment strategy to, by and large, fill in the gap

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.